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SUPERGIRLS
BY STERN, BRIGMAN AND GUICE
DC UNIVERSE



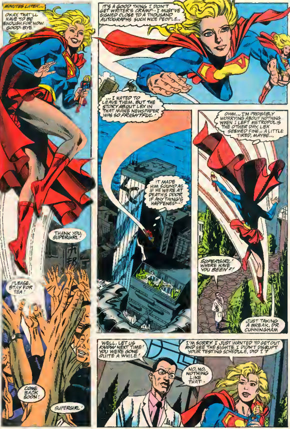
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"DEMANDS"

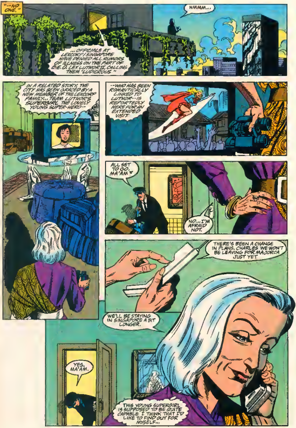
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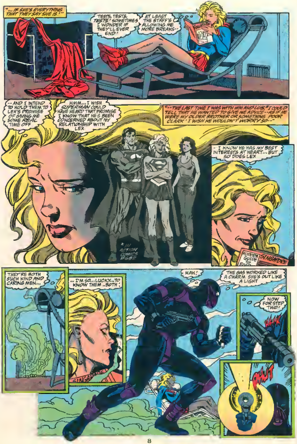

MINUTES LATER...
OKAY, THAT'LL HAVE TO BE ENOUGH FOR NOW. GOOD-BYE
THANK YOU, SUPERGIRL!
PLEASE, STAY FOR TEA!
COME BACK SOON!
SUPERGIRL!
IT'S A GOOD THING I DON'T GET WRITER'S CRAMP-- I MUST'VE SIGNED CLOSE TO A THOUSAND AUTOGRAPHS SUCH NICE PEOPLE..
... I HATED TO LEAVE THEM, BUT THE STORY ABOUT LEX IN THAT MAN'S NEWSPAPER WAS SO FRIGHTFUL!
IT MADE HIM SOUND AS IF HE WERE AT DEATH'S DOOR IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED--!
OHHH... I'M PROBABLY WORRYING ABOUT NOTHING WHEN I LEFT METROPOLIS THE OTHER DAY, LEX SEEMED FINE.. A LITTLE TIRED, MAYBE...
SUPERGIRL! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ?!
JUST TAKING A BREAK, DR CUNNINGHAM
WELL, LET US KNOW NEXT TIME! YOU WERE GONE QUITE A WHILE!
I'M SORRY I JUST WANTED TO GET OUT AND SEE THE SIGHTS. I DIDN'T DISRUPT YOUR TESTING SCHEDULE, DID I ?
NO, NO. NOTHING LIKE THAT.

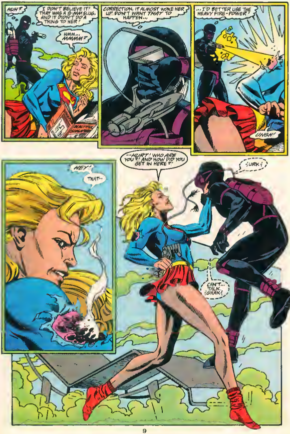

--WE WERE SIMPLY...CONCERNED OVER YOUR UNEXPLAINED ABSENCE!
I TAKE IT THAT YOU DID A BIT OF SHOPPING--?
NOT EXACTLY. THIS DOLL WAS A GIFT FROM A STREET VENDOR.
HE SEEMED LIKE A VERY NICE MAN--AND I'D HATE TO GET HIM IN TROUBLE--BUT WE REALLY SHOULD HAVE THE LEGAL STAFF LOOK INTO THESE DOLLS!
WHAT? WHY--?
WELL, IT'S VERY FLATTERING, BUT THIS IS MY LIKENESS--AND I'D LIKE SOME SAY IN HOW IT'S USED!
I KNOW THAT SUPERMAN ALLOWS HIS IMAGE TO BE USED AS LONG AS HIS SHARE OF THE ROYALTIES IS GIVEN TO CHARITY. I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO DO THE SAME TO PREVENT THESE KNOCK-OFFS!
KNOCK-OFFS?! ISN'T THERE A LICENSING TAG UNDER THE CAPE?
TAG? WHY, THERE IS--!
"...DISTINCTIVE LIKENESS... TRADEMARK OF LEXCORP..."
LEX CORP
"...ALL RIGHTS RESERVED"?!
...IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE FIND OUT MORE ABOUT... EH? SUPERGIRL?!
LEX! LEX, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
OF COURSE, I AM, LOVE! IS SOMETHING AMISS?
I...I FOUND THIS DOLL IN A SINGAPORE MARKET, LEX. WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT I WAS BEING... WELL, EXPLOITED!
AHH, THE DOLLS...THEY WERE MEANT TO BE A SURPRISE, LOVE. I'D PLANNED THEIR DEBUT IN THE ASIAN MARKET TO COINCIDE WITH YOUR TRIP, BUT I SEE YOU'VE ALREADY FOUND THEM. HOW...ENTERPRISING.
YOU SEE, LOVE, I FELT IT NECESSARY TO PROTECT YOUR IMAGE THIS WAY. LICENSING FEES WILL OF COURSE GO TO CHARITIES OF YOUR CHOOSING--
--AND YOU'LL HAVE APPROVAL OF ANY FUTURE MERCHANDISING. I'M SURE THAT OUR MARKETING PEOPLE WOULD LOVE TO GET YOUR INPUT. I TRUST THAT MEETS WITH YOUR APPROVAL?
THAT SOUNDS FINE, LEX. I KNEW THERE HAD TO BE A GOOD EXPLANATION!
IT'S SO REASSURING TO EAR YOUR VOICE- ND TO SEE YOU LOOKING SO ROBUST.

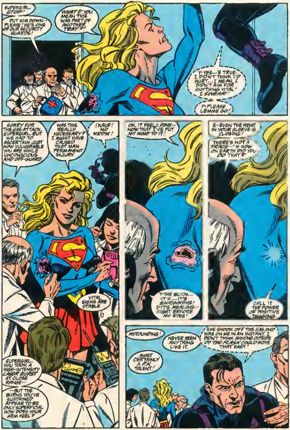

I'D HEARD THAT YOU WERE ILL AND A LOCAL NEWSPAPER CARRIED A PICTURE OF YOU THAT LOOKED JUST AWFUL
THE PERILS OF CELEBRITY! BUT REALLY, LOVE, I'M IN THE PINK!
THANK HEAVENS! I'D COME RIGHT HOME IF YOU WERE SICK
YES, I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT PHOTO...SOME BLOODY PAPARAZZO CAUGHT ME AFTER I'D BEEN UP WORKING ALL NIGHT.
I WAS HARDLY AT MY BEST--AND IT DIDN'T HELP ANY THAT THE SNEAKING DRONGO SNAPPED ME FROM MY WORST SIDE!
I DON'T DOUBT THAT A MOMENT--BUT AS YOU CAN SEE THERE'S NO NEED I MISS YOU, OF COURSE, BUT I'M MANAGING
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, LEX. SINGAPORE IS SO FASCINATING... I THOUGHT THAT, ONCE I WAS FINISHED WITH THE STRESS I MIGHT STAY A LITTLE LONGER
EXCELLENT IDEA! YOU OUGHT TO GET OUT AND SEE A LITTLE MORE OF THE WORLD
I'LL EVEN ARRANGE FOR THE NEXT SET OF BIO-TESTS TO BE RUN RIGHT THERE...THEN YOU CAN HAVE YOURSELF A LITTLE HOLIDAY
WH WHY... THANK YOU, LEX!
YOU DESERVE IT, LOVE. RUN ALONG NOW--
I HAVE SOME TECHNICAL MATTERS TO DISCUSS WITH THESE FINE FOLK I'LL SPEAK WITH YOU LATER
ALL RIGHT. LATER.
WELL! THAT WAS EASIER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE
LEX CAN BE SO POSSESSIVE...I WAS PREPARED FOR AN ARGUMENT ABOUT MY STAYING OVER...

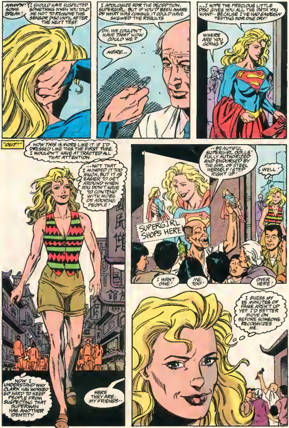

"... HE MUST BE STARTING TO MELLOW OUT."
SUPERGIRL IS NOT TO VENTURE OUTSIDE THIS COMPOUND UNACCOMPANIED!
F SHE DECLINES A PERONE, SHE IS TO FOLLOWED AND HER MOVEMENTS KEPT UNDER CLOSE OBSERVATION
IS THAT REALLY NECESSA SIR? WH HARM THERE BE..?
NEED I REMIND YOU THAT SHE IS AN ALIEN BEING? SHE'S JUST BARELY FAMILIAR WESTERN CUSTOMS
DO YOU WISH TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE IF SHE SHOULD-- HOWEVER INNOCEN CAUSE N INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT?
N-NO, SIR. MISTER LUTHOR!
GOOD. THEN SEE THAT MY ORDERS ARE FOLLOWED! LUTHOR OUT!
BLOODY LL, BUT I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER I FEEL EXHAUSTED
KELLEY... COME IN HERE IS THERE ANY WORD... ON THE ?
NOTHING ONCLUSIVE TAKE IT THAT EVERYONE BELIEVED YOUR LITTLE SHOW?
WHAT'S NEXT-- AN ANIMATRONIC LEX LUTHOR ROBOT TO COVER YOUR PERSONAL APPEARANCES
KELLEY... PLEASE...
THIS MAY BE THE ELECTRONIC AGE, LEX, BUT JUST HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO HIDE BE IND A COMPUTER-ENHANC D VIDEO IMAGE?
AS LONG AS I MUST, KELLEY. I CAN'T LET MY SUPERGIRL SEE ME LIKE THIS.
NO ONE MUST LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT MY CONDITION--

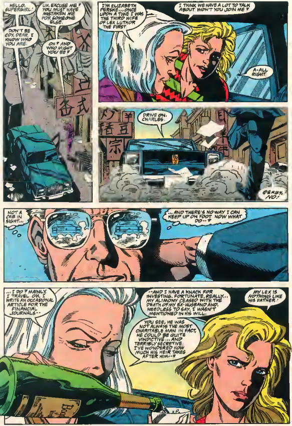

"--NO ONE."
...OFFICIALS AT LEXCORP/SINGAPORE HAVE DENIED ALL RUMORS OF ILLNESS ON THE PART OF C.E.O. LEX LUTHOR II, CALLING THEM "LUDICROUS."
HMMM...
IN A RELATED STORY, THE CITY HAS BEEN GRACED BY A NEW MEMBER OF THE LEXCORP FAMILY... TEAM LUTHOR'S SUPERGIRL, THE LOVELY YOUNG SUPER-HERO--
--WHO HAS BEEN ROMANTICALLY LINKED TO LUTHOR--IS REPORTEDLY HERE FOR AN EXTENDED VISIT.
ALL SET TO GO, MA'AM?
NO... I'M AFRAID NOT.
THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE IN PLANS, CHARLES. WE WON'T BE LEAVING FOR MAJORCA JUST YET.
WE'LL BE STAYING IN SINGAPORE A BIT LONGER.
YES, MA'AM.
THIS YOUNG SUPERGIRL IS SUPPOSED TO BE QUITE CAPABLE. I THINK THAT I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT FOR MYSELF...

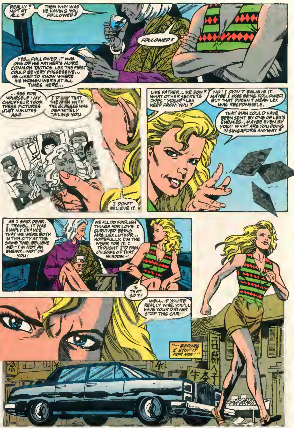

"...IF SHE'S EVERYTHING THAT THEY SAY SHE IS!"
TESTS, TESTS, TESTS! SOMETIMES I WONDER IF THEY'LL EVER END!
AT LEAST THE STAFF'S ALLOWING ME MORE BREAKS--
--AND I INTEND TO HOLD THEM TO LEX'S PROMISE OF GIVING ME SOME REAL TIME OFF
HMM...I WISH SUPERMAN COULD HAVE HEARD THAT PROMISE I KNOW THAT HE'S BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH LEX
"--THE LAST TIME I WAS WITH HIM AND LOIS,* I COULD TELL THAT HE WANTED TO GIVE ME ADVICE--AS IF HE WERE MY OLDER BROTHER OR SOMETHING. POOR CLARK! I WISH HE WOULDN'T WORRY SO--"
*IN ACTION COMICS #692
--I KNOW HE HAS MY BEST INTERESTS AT HEART...BUT SO DOES LEX
FODOR'S GUIDE TO SINGAPORE
THEY'RE BOTH SUCH KIND AND CARING MEN...
...I'M SO...LUCKY...TO KNOW THEM..BOTH!
HAH!
THE GAS WORKED LIKE A CHARM. SHE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT
NOW FOR STEP TWO!

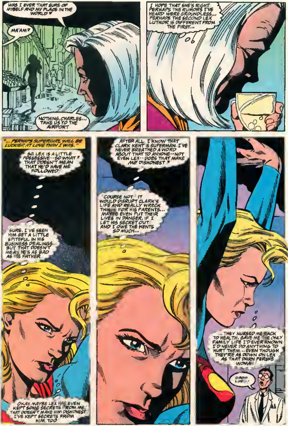

HUH?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THAT WAS A 9-MM SLUG, AND IT DIDN'T DO A THING TO HER!
HMM... MMMM?
CORRECTION. IT ALMOST WOKE HER UP. DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN...
...I'D BETTER USE THE HEAVY FIRE-POWER!
UNGH!
HEY!
THAT--
--HURT! WHO ARE YOU?! AND HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?!
URK
CAN'T... TALK. GHAK


SUPERGIRL, STOP!
PUT HIM DOWN-- PLEASE! HE'S ONE OF OUR SECURITY GUARDS!
WHAT?! YOU MEAN THIS WAS PART OF ANOTHER TEST?!
Y-YES...'S TRUE. I DIDN'T THINK I'D HURT... I MEAN, I DIDN'T AIM FOR ANYTHING VITAL! I SWEAR!
P-PLEASE LEMME GO!
SORRY FOR THE GAS ATTACK, SUPERGIRL, BUT WE HAD TO ASCERTAIN JUST HOW VULNERABLE YOU ARE WHILE UNCONSCIOUS AND OFF-GUARD.
WAS THIS REALLY NECESSARY?! I MIGHT HAVE CAUSED THAT MAN PERMANENT INJURY.
!KAUF! NO KIDDIN'!
VITAL SIGNS ARE STABLE
SUPERGIRL, YOU TOOK A HIGH-INTENSITY LASER BURST AT CLOSE RANGE--
--BUT THE BURNS YOU'VE SUSTAINED APPEAR TO BE ONLY SUPERFICIAL. HOW DOES YOUR ARM FEEL?
OH, IT FEELS FINE-- NOW THAT I'VE PUT MY MIND TO IT!
T-THE BURN... IT'S... IT'S SHRINKING! I-IT'S HEALING-- RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!
E-EVEN THE RENT IN YOUR SLEEVE IS CLOSING!
THERE'S NOT A TRACE--! H-HOW ON EARTH DID YOU DO THAT?!
CALL IT THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING.
ASTOUNDING!
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
MOST CERTAINLY A P.K. TALENT!
SHE SHOOK OFF THE GAS AND WAS ON ME IN AN INSTANT! I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE OUTSIDE OF THE FLASH COULD MOVE THAT FAST!

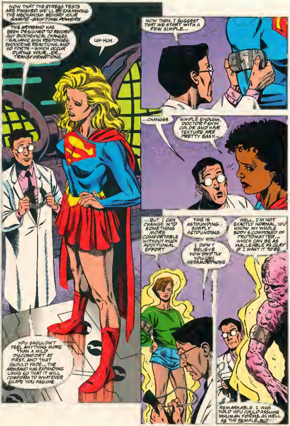

MMMPH! SOME BREAK!
I SHOULD HAVE SUSPECTED SOMETHING WHEN YOU TOLD ME NOT TO REMOVE THIS SENSOR DISC UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT TEST
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE DECEPTION, SUPERGIRL. BUT IF YOU'D BEEN AWARE OF WHAT WAS COMING IT COULD HAVE SKEWED THE RESULTS
OH, WE COULDN'T HAVE THAT NOW COULD WE?
HERE...
...I HOPE THE PRECIOUS LITTLE DISC GIVES YOU ALL THE DATA YOU WANT-- BECAUSE I'VE HAD ENOUGH TESTING FOR ONE DAY!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
"OUT!"
NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE IT. IF I'D DRESSED LIKE THIS THE FIRST TIME, I WOULDN'T HAVE ATTRACTED ALL THAT ATTENTION
...NOT THAT I MINDED IT TOO MUCH, BUT IT IS EASIER TO GET AROUND WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONTEND WITH MOBS OF ADORING PEOPLE!
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY CLARK HAS WORKED SO HARD TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM SUSPECTING THAT SUPERMAN HAS ANOTHER IDENTITY
HERE THEY ARE MY FRIENDS--
--BEAUTIFUL SUPERGIRL DOLLS! FULLY AUTHORIZED AND ENDORSED BY THE GIRL OF STEEL HERSELF! STEP RIGHT UP!
WELL!
SUPERGIRL SHOPS HERE
I WANT ONE!
ME TOO!
OVER HERE!
I GUESS MY 15 MINUTES OF FAME AREN'T UP YET. I'D BETTER MOVE ON BEFORE SOMEONE RECOGNIZES ME.


HELLO, SUPERGIRL!
UH, EXCUSE ME? YOU MUST HAVE MISTAKEN ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
DON'T BE COY, DEAR. I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
OH? AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
I'M ELIZABETH PERSKE... ONCE UPON A TIME I WAS THE THIRD WIFE OF LEX LUTHOR THE FIRST.
I THINK WE HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT. WON'T YOU JOIN ME?
A-ALL RIGHT.
DRIVE ON, CHARLES.
@&#%, NO!
NOT A CAB IN SIGHT...
...AND THERE'S NO WAY I CAN KEEP UP ON FOOT. NOW WHAT DO--?
...I DO? MAINLY, I TRAVEL. OH, I WRITE AN OCCASIONAL ARTICLE FOR THE FINANCIAL JOURNALS--
--AND I HAVE A KNACK FOR INVESTING. FORTUNATE, REALLY... MY ALIMONY CEASED WITH THE DEATH OF MY EX-HUSBAND AND, NEEDLESS TO SAY, I WASN'T MENTIONED IN HIS WILL.
YOU SEE, HE WAS NOT ALWAYS THE MOST CHARITABLE MAN. IN FACT, HE COULD BE QUITE VINDICTIVE... AND TERRIBLY SECRETIVE. I'VE WONDERED HOW MUCH HIS HEIR TAKES AFTER HIM--?
MY LEX IS NOTHING LIKE HIS FATHER!

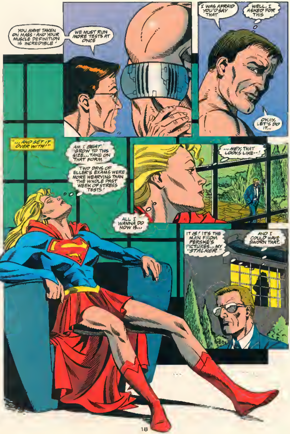

REALLY? NOT AT ALL?
THEN WHY WAS HE HAVING YOU FOLLOWED?
FOLLOWED?
YES.. FOLLOWED IT WAS ONE OF HIS FATHER'S MORE COMMON TACTICS LEX THE FIRST COULD BE VERY POSSESSIVE... HE LIKED TO KNOW WHERE HIS WOMEN WERE AT ALL TIMES HERE...
...SEE FOR YOURSELF 'MY CHAUFFEUR TOOK THESE PICTURES JUST MINUTES AGO
I'D SAY THAT THE MAN WITH THE GLASSES WAS DEFINITELY TAILING YOU
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON? WHAT OTHER SECRETS DOES "YOUR" LEX KEEP FROM YOU?
NO! I DON'T BELIEVE IT MAYBE I WAS BEING FOLLOWED, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN LEX WAS RESPONSIBLE.
THAT MAN COULD HAVE BEEN SENT BY ONE OF LEX'S ENEMIES.. MAYBE EVEN BY YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN SINGAPORE ANYWAY?
AS I SAID, DEAR, I TRAVEL IT WAS SIMPLY CHANCE THAT WE WERE BOTH IN THIS CITY AT THE SAME TIME BELIEVE ME--I'M NOT AN ENEMY...NOT OF YOU!
WE ALL DO FOOLISH THINGS FOR LOVE I SURVIVED BEING MRS LEX LUTHOR... HOPEFULLY, I'M THE WISER FOR IT I THOUGHT I'D PASS ON SOME OF THAT WISDOM--!
IS THAT SO?!
WELL, IF YOU'RE REALLY WISE, YOU'LL HAVE YOUR DRIVER STOP THIS CAR
"--BEFORE I STOP IT FOR HIM!"
牛李子

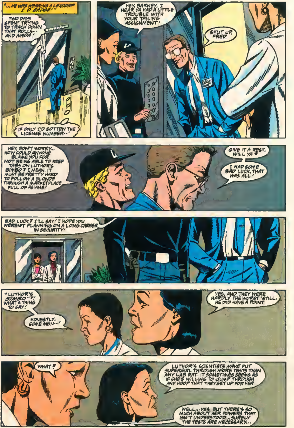

WAS I EVER THAT SURE OF MYSELF AND MY PLACE IN THE WORLD?
MA'AM?
NOTHING, CHARLES... TAKE US TO THE AIRPORT
I HOPE THAT SHE'S RIGHT. PERHAPS THE RUMORS I'VE HEARD WERE GROUNDLESS... PERHAPS THE SECOND LEX LUTHOR IS DIFFERENT FROM THE FIRST...
"...PERHAPS SUPERGIRL WILL BE LUCKIER AT LOVE THAN I WAS."
SO, LEX IS A LITTLE POSSESSIVE--SO WHAT? THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT HE'D HAVE ME FOLLOWED.
SURE, I'VE SEEN HIM GET A LITTLE SPITEFUL IN HIS BUSINESS DEALINGS BUT THAT DOESN'T MEA HE'S AS BAD AS IS FATHER
OKAY, MAYBE LEX EVEN KEPT SOME SECRETS ROM ME. THAT DOESN'T MAKE HIM DISHONEST. I'VE KEPT SECRETS FROM HIM TOO
AFTER ALL, I KNOW THAT CLARK KENT IS SUPERMAN. I'VE NEVER BREATHED A WORD ABOUT THAT TO ANYONE--NOT EVEN LEX--DOES THAT MAKE ME DISHONEST?
COURSE NOT. IT WOULD DISRUPT CLARK'S LIFE AND REALLY WRECK THIN FOR HIS PARENTS... MAY E EVEN PUT THEIR LIVES IN DANGER, IF I LET HIS SECRET OUT AND I OWE THE KENTS SO MUCH...
...THEY NURSED ME ACK TO HEALTH, GAVE ME E ONLY FAMILY LIFE I'D EVER KNOWN. I'D NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT THEM... EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE AS DOWN ON LEX AS THAT DARN PERSKE WOMA
GOOD LORD!

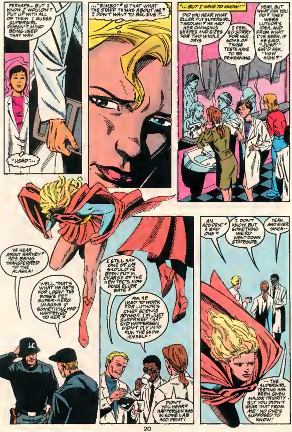

AND THAT'S THIRTY MINUTES! VERY GOOD, SUPERGIRL, YOU CAN RACK THE GAMMA UNIT NOW!
HMMM? OH, SURE.
THAT THING MUST WEIGH TONS, BUT SHE'S HANDLING IT SO SO CASUALLY... ALMOST ABSENTMINDEDLY
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I SHOULD BELIEVE THAT ELIZABETH HAD BEEN MARRIED TO LEX'S FATHER...
...MAYBE THAT WAS A LIE, TOO. THOUGH, I SUPPOSE I COULD CHECK--'
WELL, THAT COMPLETES THE PHYSICAL TESTS, SUPERGIRL. WE'LL TURN YOU OVER NOW TO DR. RAYMOND ELLER. HE'S ONE OF OUR TOP BIOPHYSICISTS.
HELLO, DR. ELLER. I SUPPOSE THAT YOU'LL WANT TO START YOUR TESTING RIGHT AWAY.
WELL, AH, YES. AS SOON AS WE CAN GET YOU SET UP IN LAB 12... IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU?
SURE... WHY NOT?
AMAZING. SIMPLY AMAZING
ANYTHING TO TAKE MY MIND OFF THINGS


NOW THAT THE STRES TESTS ARE FINISHED, WE'LL B EXAMINING THE MECHANISM BEHIND YOUR SHAPE-SHIFTING POWERS
THIS ARMBAND HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO RECORD ANY BIOCHEMICAL CHANGES GALVANIC SKIN RESPONSES, ENDOCRINE REACTIONS, AND O FORTH - WHICH OCCUR DURING YOUR ..ER... TRANSFORMATIONS
UH-HUH.
YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL ANYTHING MORE THAN A MILD DISCOMFORT AT FIRST, AND THAT SHOULD FADE... THE ARMBAND HAS EXPANDING LINKS SO THAT IT WILL COMFORM TO WHATEVER SHAPE YOU ASSUME
NOW THEN, I SUGGEST THAT WE START WITH A FEW SIMPLE...
...CHANGES.
SIMPLE ENOUGH DOCTOR? SKIN COLOR AND HAIR TEXTURE ARE PRETTY EASY...
...BUT I CAN CHANGE INTO SOMETHING MORE COMFORTABLE WITHOUT MUCH ADDITIONAL EFFORT
THIS IS ASTOUNDING. SIMPLY ASTOUNDING
I DON'T BELIEVE HOW SWIFTLY YOU TAMORPHOSE
WELL, I'M NOT EXACTLY NORMAL, YOU KNOW MY WHOLE BODY S COMPOSED OF PROTOMATTER... WHICH CAN BE AS MALLEABLE AS CLAY IF I WANT IT TO BE
REMARKABLE I WAS TOLD YOU COULD ASSUME INHUMAN FORMS, AS WELL AS THE FEMALE, BUT


OH, GENDER IS HARDLY A RESTRICTION, DOCTOR. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, THE BIOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN AREN'T THAT EXTREME
Q-QUITE RIGHT THEN ..YOU COULD BECOME ANY MAN.. AS WELL AS ANY WOMAN--WITHOUT EXPERIENCING ANY PAIN?
NOT ALWAYS. THERE'S PAIN ONLY IF I SIGNIFICANTLY TAKE ON MASS TO INCREASE MY VOLUME
YOU CAN DO THAT?! HOW--?
I'M REALLY NOT SURE HOW... I JUST KNOW THAT I CAN
THEN BY ALL MEANS, SHOW ME! WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE MECHANISMS!
YOU WANT ME TO BEEF UP RIGHT NOW?
PLEASE
WELL... OKAY...
..GAHRRRR...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DO I... SOUND... AS IF... I'M... ALL RIGHT?!
I TOLD YOU... THERE WAS... PAIN... INVOLVED
HUFF: THERE
?!?


YOU HAVE TAKEN ON MASS 'AND YOUR MUSCLE DEFINITION IS INCREDIBLE'
WE MUST RUN MORE TESTS AT ONCE
I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY THAT
WELL, I ASKED FOR THIS
OKAY, LET'S DO IT...
"...AND GET IT OVER WITH!"
AM I GREAT 'GROW TO THIS SIZE... TAKE ON THAT FORM
TWO DAYS OF ELLER'S EXAMS WERE MORE WEARYING THAN THE WHOLE PAST WEEK OF STRESS TESTS'
ALL I WANNA DO NOW IS...
...HEY, THAT LOOKS LIKE--!
IT IS! IT'S THE MAN FROM PERSKE'S PICTURES... MY "STALKER"
AND I COULD HAVE SWORN THAT.


"...HE WAS WEARING A LEXCORP I D BADGE!"
TWO DAYS SPENT TRYING TO TRACK DOWN THAT ROLLS-- AND NADA!
IF ONLY I'D GOTTEN THE LICENSE NUMBER--!
HEY, BARNEY, I HEAR YA HAD A LITTLE TROUBLE WITH YOUR TAILING ASSIGNMENT!
SHUT UP, FRED
HEY, DON'T WORRY... HOW COULD ANYONE BLAME YOU FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO KEEP TABS ON LUTHOR'S BIMBO? I MEAN, IT MUST BE PRETTY HARD TO FOLLOW A BLONDE THROUGH A MARKETPLACE FULL OF ASIANS!
GIVE IT A REST, WILL YA?
I HAD SOME BAD LUCK, THAT WAS ALL!
BAD LUCK? I'LL SAY! I HOPE YOU WEREN'T PLANNING ON A LONG CAREER IN SECURITY!
"LUTHOR'S BIMBO"?! WHAT A THING TO SAY!
HONESTLY. SOME MEN--!
YES, AND THEY WERE HARDLY THE WORST! STILL, HE DID HAVE A POINT
WHAT?
LUTHOR'S SCIENTISTS HAVE PUT SUPERGIRL THROUGH MORE TESTS THAN ANY LAB RAT. IT SOMETIMES SEEMS AS IF SHE'S WILLING TO JUMP THROUGH ANY HOOP THAT THEY SET UP FOR HER
WELL... YES. BUT THERE'S SO MUCH ABOUT HER POWERS THAT ISN'T UNDERSTOOD... SURELY THE TESTS ARE NECESSARY...



PERHAPS... BUT I KNOW I WOULDN'T PUT UP WITH ALL OF THEM. I GUESS SUPERGIRL DOESN'T MIND BEING USED THAT WAY.
"USED"...
..."SIMBO"? IS THAT WHAT THE STAFF THINKS ABOUT ME? I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT...
"...BUT I HAVE TO KNOW!"
DID YOU HEAR WHAT ELLER PUT SUPERGIRL THROUGH? HE HAD HER CHANGING SHAPES AND SIZES FOR TWO WHOLE DAYS.
I FEEL SO SORRY FOR HER. SOME OF THOSE TESTS HAVE TO BE DEMEANING.
YEAH, BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO? THEY WERE LUTHOR'S IDEA, AND FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, IF HE SAID, "JUMP!" SHE'D ASK, "HOW HIGH?"
YA HEAR ABOUT BARNEY? HE'S BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE ALASKA!
WELL, THAT'S WHAT HE GETS FOR LOSIN' THE BOSS'S PET SUPER-HERO. IMAGINE IF SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO HER?
I STILL SAY ONE OF US SHOULD'VE BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF THE NEW TESTS. HOW DOES ELLER RATE?
AW, HE USED TO WORK FOR LUTHOR'S CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISOR. I'M JUST SURPRISED THAT SYD HAPPERSEN DIDN'T FLY IN TO RUN THE SHOW HIMSELF!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR? HAPPERSEN WAS IN SOME LAB ACCIDENT!
AN ACCIDENT? A BAD ONE?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT SOMETHING WEIRD WENT DOWN STATESIDE.
YEAH, AND EVER SINCE--
--THE SUPERGIRL TESTING HAS BEEN GIVEN MAJOR PRIORITY. BUT YOU DIDN'T HEAR THAT FROM ME! NO ONE'S SUPPOSED TO KNOW!


NO ONE IS SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHAT?
OHHH, EVER SINCE MY RUN-IN WITH PERSKE, EVERYTHING IS SOUNDING SO SUSPICIOUS. I HATE ACTING LIKE SUCH A GHOST...
"...BUT I MUST GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS."
HAVE YOU HAD A CHANCE TO GO OVER ANY OF THE INITIAL DATA I SENT YOU YESTERDAY, DR. HAFFERSEN?
Dr. R.P. Eller
YES...YES. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE'VE PUT SOME OF IT TO USE ALREADY.
REALLY? TO USE? HOW--?
YOU'LL FIND OUT EVENTUALLY, RAY...ON A NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS.
SIR? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU DON'T SOUND WELL. I HEARD THAT YOU HAD AN ACCIDENT...
ACCIDENT...YES. I SUPPOSE THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO DESCRIBE IT. AN EXPERIMENT BACKFIRED ON ME, I'M AFRAID.*
THE UPSHOT IS THAT THE DATA WE'VE COLLECTED ON SUPERGIRL IS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT. I'M GOING TO NEED YOU STATESIDE.
WHAT? BACK IN METROPOLIS?
NO...NOT METROPOLIS. I'M AT A SPECIAL SECRET FACILITY. YOU'LL BE BROUGHT HERE TO ASSIST ME ON OPERATION PROTOMATTER. YOU ARE TO BRING ALL YOUR DATA.
SHOULD SUPERGIRL COME ALONG?
NO, NO... IT IS BEST THAT SHE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THIS. IN FACT, WE WANT HER TO STAY IN ASIA FOR THE TIME BEING...
*IN SUPERMAN #87. NOW ON SALE!


...CAN YOU ARRANGE THAT?
NO PROBLEM. I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THE TECH-NICIANS KEEP HER OCCUPIED ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TELL HER THAT IT'S ON ORDERS FROM THE TOP AND SHE'LL DO ANYTHING THEY SAY!
OPERATION PROTOMATTER... AND HE WANTS ME TO ASSIST! RAYMOND YOUR STOCK IS RISING RAPIDLY!
THINK AGAIN!
SO I'LL DO ANYTHING THEY SAY, WILL I?
S-S-SUPERGIRL?! H-HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN HERE? WH-WHAT DID YOU HEAR?
NOT NEARLY 'NOUGH
I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS "OPERATION PROTOMATTER"--AND I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT NOW!"
TO BE CONTINUED...